

## Red Blood Cell Metab

### I. Properties of RBCs

- A. Provide a reducing compartment in within oxidizing blood
- B. Can reg. O<sub>2</sub> binding by controlling effectors
- C. 120 day camping trip– no macromolec. Synth, or metab (beyond glycolysis and PPP)
- D. Biochem of RBCs
  - i. Specialized for O<sub>2</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> transp., carry only the essentials
    - a) Carries only food and first aid – glycolysis and PPP
  - ii. Derived from pluripotent stem cells
    - a) Hypoxia --> HIF-1 (hypoxia inducible transcr. Factor) --> erythropoietin
    - b) Erythropoietin (EPO)
      - synth'd in kidney peritubular cells
      - Stim's growth of RBC precursors
      - Suppresses apoptosis
      - Stimulates globin synthesis
      - Med. Importance – Recombinant EPO treats patients w/decreased RBC synth
        - Patients with end stage kidney disease
        - HIV patients taking certain Rtas inhibitors
        - Cancer patients on certain chemo types
        - Post-surgery
  - iii. Shape max's gas and solute exchange – dependent upon cytoskel and membrane struct
  - iv. Built to pick up O<sub>2</sub> and drop off CO<sub>2</sub> in lungs – Higher pH & [O<sub>2</sub>] (Haldane effect)
  - v. Built to pick up CO<sub>2</sub> and drop off O<sub>2</sub> in peripheral tiss– lower pH & [O<sub>2</sub>] (Bohr effect)

## II. Composition of RBC Membrane

### A. Lipids – More Phosphatidic acid, sphingomyelin, and cholesterol than other places

- i. Cholesterol adds rigidity to the RBC membrane
- ii. uneven distribution on leaflets
  - a) inner - more phosphatidylethanolamine and phosphatidylserine
  - b) outer - more phosphatidylcholine and sphingomyelin

### B. Proteins -

- i. asymmetrical orientation
  - a) outside freq. Glycosylated e.g. Glycophorin
  - b) membr spanning portion w/series of alpha helices w/hydrophobic side chains
  - c) intracellular or extracellular domains may be exposed to solvent
- ii. types
  - a) intrinsic – big chunks w/in membrane interior –don't wash off easily (e.g. Band 3)
  - b) extrinsic – assoc with, but not embedded in membr - easily dissociated (e.g Spectrin)

### C. Specific Key Intrinsic Proteins

- i. Band 3 (a.k.a. Anion Exchange Protein AE1)
  - a) Transmemb glycoprotein with 12 membrane spanning helices
  - b) Forms channel for electroneutral  $\text{Cl}^-$  and  $\text{HCO}_3^-$  exchange through membrane
  - c) Closely related siblings in liver (AE2) and brain/heart/muscle (AE3)
  - d) N Term interacts w/ankyrin
  - e) associates with glycolytic enzymes, e.g. G3P DH
- ii. Glycophorins – glycoprotein w/heavily glyco'd outside, 1 alpha helix spans membrane
  - a) Sialic acid in glycocalyx gives neg charge to outside of RBC, preventing adherence
  - b) Receptors for malarial parasites
  - c) Determinants of blood grps
    - H substance forms by linkage of GDP-Fuc to gal-glcNAc-R
    - H substance gets either GalNAc or Gal tacked on by GalNAc/Gal transferase
      - Fuc-Gal-GlcNAc-R-**GalNAc** = A substance (A blood type)
      - Fuc-Gal-GlcNAc-R-**Gal** = B substance (B blood type)

Blood Type	Antigens	Serum Ab's
A	A	Anti B
B	B	Anti A
AB	AB	None (Universal donor)
O	None	Anti A and B (Univ. Recip)

### D. Role of cytoskeleton – allows deformation + resilience

- i. RBCs must pass through capillaries
  - a) Spectrin – alpha and beta subunit, antiparallel coiled-coil, triple helical repeats
    - bridge b/n membrane and cytoskel
    - Links Band 3 (via anykyrin) and Glycophorin C (via actin and Band 4.1)

### E. Membrane defects

- i. Hereditary spherocytosis – Defects in interaction with Band 3 (beta/alpha spectrin, ankyrin, and occasionally Band 3)
  - a) result in reduced interaction b/n cytoskeleton and membrane--->less resilience
  - b) cells are deformed, cleared by spleen ---> splenomegaly
- ii. Hereditary elliptocytosis, pyropoikilocytosis
  - a) mutations in alpha or beta subunits of spectrin mess up tetramer formation
  - b) cells take elliptical or oval shape b/c or horizontal interaction of spectrin
  - c) One band 3 mutation can cause ovalocytosis, too

### III. Energy Metab in RBCs – to power pumps and prevent injury

#### A. Glycolysis

- i. generates ATP – energy for Na<sup>+</sup>/K<sup>+</sup> pump and Ca<sup>2+</sup> pump
- ii. 2,3-BPG -
- iii. NADH – reduces metHb (Fe<sup>3+</sup>) to Hb (Fe<sup>2+</sup>)

#### B. PPP

- i. generates NADPH to reduce
  - a) metHb (Fe<sup>3+</sup>) to Hb (Fe<sup>2+</sup>)
  - b) Reduced Glutathione (GSSG) to Reduced Glutathione (2GSH)

#### C. GSH – Glutathione

- i. Roles
  - a) detox of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>
  - b) Reduction of Oxidized protein thiols (Protein-S-R  $\xrightarrow{2GSH}$  Protein-SH + R)
  - c) non enzymatic reduction of Met Hb to Hb – 12% of all MetHb reduction
- ii. Synthesis
  - a) ATP + Glu + Cys  $\xrightarrow{\text{glutamyl cysteine synthetase}}$  gamma glutamyl cysteine + ADP + Pi
  - b) gamma glutamyl cysteine + glycine  $\xrightarrow{\text{GLUTATHIONE SYNTHETASE}}$  glutathione
- iii. Regeneration
  - a) GSSG is reduced to 2GSH by NADPH and glutathione reductase
  - b) 2GSH is oxidized to GSSG by H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> and glutathione peroxidase

#### D. 2,3-BPG

- i. Roles
  - a) promotes release of O<sub>2</sub>
  - b) Prevents excess accum. of ATP
  - c) Reg's own synth by neg feedback inhib
- ii. Synth and regeneration
  - a) 1,3-BPG from glycolysis  $\xrightarrow{\text{BPG Mutase}}$  2,3-BPG (neg feedback inhib)
  - b) 2,3-BPG  $\xrightarrow{\text{2,3-BPG PHOSPHATASE}}$  3-Phosphoglycerate (--->glycolysis)
- iii. Influences on 2,3-BPG
  - a) Hypoxia
    - Heart failure, acclimation to high altitude, etc. cause increase in 2,3 BPG
  - b) Genetic conditions alter the binding isotherm of Hb
    - Hexokinase deficiency – less glycolysis, less 2,3 BPG – shifts to left
    - Pyruvate kinase deficiency – less PEP--->Pyr, more 2,3 BPG – shifts to right
  - c) Altering the binding isotherm of Hb
    - Pathological conditions - Anemia, Obstructive pulmonary disease, cystic fibrosis, congenital heart disease & hyperthyroidism
    - Other conditions - high altitude, and exercise
    - Fetal Hb binds O<sub>2</sub> w/greater affinity, and 2,3 BPG w/lower affinity

#### IV. Oxidation of Hb

##### A. MetHb (Fe<sup>3+</sup>) - oxidized form of Hb

- i. Iron inevitably oxidizes from Fe<sup>2+</sup> to Fe<sup>3+</sup>, and won't bind O<sub>2</sub>
  - a) Spontaneously
  - b) Drugs or toxic oxidants, e.g. components of tobacco smoke
- ii. Reduction
  - a) \*MetHb Redutase I (a.k.a. Cytochrome B5 reductase aka diapherase I) *primary PW*
    - NADH CYT B5 REDUCTASE → Reduces 2MetHb to 2Hb
  - b) MetHb Reductase II (a.k.a. Diapherase II) – *Minor PW ~ 10% MetHb*
    - MetHb + NADPH DIAPHORASE II → Hb + NADP<sup>+</sup>
  - c) Glutathione (2GSH + MetHb → GSSG + Hb) *Minor PW ~ 12% MetHb*
- iii. MetHb Anemia
  - a) MetHb Reductase II defect – mild – induced by oxidant stress
  - b) Cyt B5 Reductase defect – mild to severe, depending on the mutation
  - c) Cyt B5 Reductase deficiency – causes reduced enzyme concentration – usually mild
  - d) Hb M (Multiple types) – mutations in *Hb subunits* make iron more prone to oxidation

##### B. Coping with oxidative damage to Hb (Antioxidants)

- i. Superoxide dismutase – eliminates superoxide, the highly reactive oxygen species
- ii. Ascorbate -
- iii. Vitamin E – Reacts with oxidants forming peroxyvitamin E---> reduced to Ascorbate

##### C. Oxidation related disorders

- i. G6P DH Deficiency –
  - a) Enzyme <50% effective - affects PPP → oxidative damage to RBCs
  - b) X-linked -common in people of tropical African/Asian/Mediterranean descent
  - c) Patients have increased sensitivity to oxidative stress
  - d) Common medical complications
    - Neonatal jaundice – can result in neurological damage
    - Acute Hemolytic Anemia – life threatening in children
    - Hemolytic attack, induced by a variety of drugs, chemicals, or diseases causes:
      - lipid oxidation (damages RBC membrane)
      - Destruction of spectrin (damages RBC cytoskeleton)
      - Oxidation of Hb (produces more MetHb)
      - Production of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> – causes Lactate buildup

#### V. Solute transport across the RBC membrane

##### A. Transporters act like enzymes

- i. facilitating an energetically unfavorable process
  - a) ions must shed hydration shell, pass hydrocarbon layer, and rehydrate
- ii. providing a solute specific path

##### B. Not everything needs a transporter

- i. O<sub>2</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub>

##### C. Needed for ions and specific polar solutes

- i. Na<sup>+</sup>, K<sup>+</sup>, H<sup>+</sup>, HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>, Ca<sup>2+</sup>
- ii. Glucose, H<sub>2</sub>O

##### D. Types of transport

- i. Uniport – single solute transported via facilitated diffusion (e.g. Glut1)
- ii. Symport – Cotransport of two solutes in the same direction
- iii. Antiport – Cotransport of two solutes in opposite directions (Band 3 aka AE1 )

## VI. Key transporters of the RBC

### A. Band 3

#### i. Roles

- a) antiport of  $\text{Cl}^-$  in and  $\text{HCO}_3^-$  out (by Carbonic anhydrase)
  - essential for efficient transport of  $\text{CO}_2$
- b) Binds membrane and cytoskeleton

#### ii. How it fills its roles - Protein binding capacity

- a) N term inside cell (unusual)
  - G3PD, PGK, Aldolase, Ankyrin, 4.1, Hb, Hemochromes
- b) C term binds Carbonic anhydrase
- c) Ankyrin and 4.1 bind other places as well

#### iii. Action of specific bound proteins

- a) Hb/hemichrome – Band 3's role in senescence (aging) of RBCs
  - oxidative damage to proteins and lipids marks RBC's for destruction by spleen
  - One type of damage is the partial unfolding of Hb to hemichrome
    - Hb binds weakly to N term of Band 3
    - Hemichrome binds strongly to N term of Band 3
      - aggregates form, and generate an epitope
      - epitope recognized on cell surface by IgG
      - RBC is cleared by macrophages
- b) Carbonic Anhydrase – catalyzes hydration of  $\text{CO}_2$ 
  - In peripheral tissue
    - Incoming  $\text{CO}_2$  + cytosolic  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$   $\xrightarrow{\text{CARBONIC ANHYDRASE}}$   $\text{H}_2\text{CO}_3$
    - $\text{H}_2\text{CO}_3$  loses  $\text{HCO}_3^-$  to Band 3 antiport, and  $\text{H}^+$  remains
    - Haldane effect – (deoxygenation of Hb increases its ability to carry  $\text{CO}_2$ )
      - $\text{H}^+$  and cytosolic  $\text{HbO}_2$  yield HHb and free  $\text{O}_2$  that leaves the RBC
      - HHb picks up  $\text{CO}_2$  from tissue and forms Carbam Hb
  - In lungs - reverse of what happens in tissue
    - Haldane effect - (Oxygenation of Hb decreases its ability to carry  $\text{CO}_2$ )
      - $\text{O}_2$  serves as an effector in the release of  $\text{CO}_2$  from Hb
        - Carbam Hb releases  $\text{CO}_2$ , forming HHb
    - HHb combines with  $\text{O}_2$ , forming  $\text{HbO}_2$  and free  $\text{H}^+$
    - $\text{H}^+$  combines with  $\text{H}_2\text{CO}_3$  forming  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and  $\text{CO}_2$
    - $\text{CO}_2$  is released from the RBC

### B. GLUT 1 – facilitated uniport glucose transport

- i. Intrinsic membrane protein with 12 membrane spanning domains

### C. Aquaporin (AQP1) – abundant facilitated uniport $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ transport

- i. Consists of a tetramer of polypeptides, each subunit has 6 membrane spanning alpha helices
- ii. Permits single file transport of water, but NOT protons

### D. $\text{Na}^+/\text{K}^+$ ATPase – Active antiport maintains a concentration gradient

- i. 3  $\text{Na}^+$  come into the cytosol, while 2  $\text{K}^+$  go out to the blood